Pirated CDs and DVDs

2093. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pirated CDs and DVDs are easily accessible in the open market which are ruining the music and film industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) According to Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) the revenue loss from film piracy is about Rs. 1200 crores annually. As far as Music Industry is concerned, the Indian Music Industry (IMI) has informed that the size of the music industry has fallen from Rs. 1000 crores in 1999 to Rs.500 crores in 2004 due to piracy. The Ministry does not have any data.

(c) The Copyright Act, 1957, which falls under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development contains, *inter alia* the legal provisions regarding copyright in cinematograph films and music. The responsibility for dealing with offences under the Copyright Act rests with the police authorities of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Copyright Enforcement cells have been set up in most States/UT Administrations headed by a senior police officer to deal with such offences.

Apart from this, the Ministry of Information and Broadcastiang has taken the following steps to fight piracy in the film sector;

- This Ministry has a Plan Scheme to undertake activities relating to anti piracy measures. The Ministry has initiated action to formulate appropriate training modules for police officers to train them for anti-piracy.
- In September 2001, Ministry of I&B brought together representatives of the film producers, multi-service operators and cable operators who have jointly resolved not to exhibit films without valid permission from the copyright holders.
- Recognizing that high levels of entertainment tax lead to piracy, the Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, a sub committee of the State Information Ministers' Conference,

recommended that the rate of entertainment tax be lowered to a ceiling of 45%. A number of States have suitably lowered their entertainment tax levels.

- The Committee also recommended appointment of senior police officers in States to work in co-ordination with the entertainment industry, as nodal officers.
- During the Budget of 2003-04, audio CDs were exempted from excise duty to do away with the price advantage available to pirated CDs.
- The Public Service Broadcasting Trust has been entrusted with the task of making a film on piracy.
- The Cable Television Networks Regulation Act has been amended in 2000, to prohibit a Cable operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any programme or channel for which the Copyright holder has not granted him a license.
- This Ministry has requested Chief Secretaries of all States to advise District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police to include anti piracy measures in their monthly activity reports.

Ban on Advertisement of Tobacco Products

†2094. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a ban has been imposed on advertisements of all the tobacco products;

(b) if so, whether it has been ensured that the pan masala shown in the advertisements telecast on TV are without tobacco; and

(c) the procedure adopted to ensure this?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Government has enacted 'The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 2003' which, *inter alia,* contains provision which bans direct or indirect advertisement of tobacco products.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.